### **HOGAN & HARTSON**

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July 21, 2004

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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 Twelfth Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: WT Docket No. 02-86
WT Docket No. 03-103
Notice of Ex Parte Presentation

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This is to inform you that AirCell, Inc. ("AirCell") representatives Jack Blumenstein, Chairman; Bill Gordon, Vice President for Government Affairs; and I, counsel to AirCell, made *ex parte* presentations on July 20, 2004 to the following FCC representatives with respect to the above-referenced proceedings: Barry Ohlson, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Adelstein; Jennifer Manner, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Abernathy; Paul Margie, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Copps; and Sam Feder, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Martin. We also met with John Muleta, Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau ("WTB"), and the following WTB representatives and Mobility Division: David Furth, Kathy Harris, Richard Arsenault, Tom Derenge, and Jay Jackson.

The meeting addressed the issues set forth in the attached presentation, including background on AirCell's operations and a summary of AirCell's positions on the pending AirCell petition for extension of waiver and the FCC's Air-to-Ground ("ATG") proceeding, as referenced above. Specifically, AirCell stressed its interest in relocating to the ATG band and the need for allowing competitive access to this band.

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Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b)(1) of the commission's rules, I am filing this notice electronically in the above-referenced docket. In addition, I am sending one copy of this notice to each of the FCC staff listed below. Please contact me directly with any additional questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele C. Farquhar Counsel to AirCell, Inc.

### Enclosures

cc: Barry Ohlson

Jennifer Manner

John Muleta

**David Furth** 

**Kathy Harris** 

Jay Jackson

Richard Arsenault

Tom Derenge

Paul Margie

Sam Feder

Michael Duel Sullivan, Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP



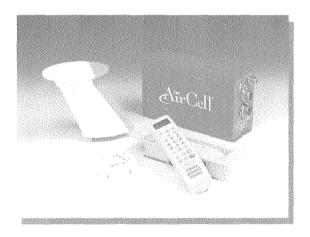
In Touch-In Flight®

# 

July 20, 2004

### About AirCell

- → Leading manufacturer of low-cost, light-weight telecommunication systems for aircraft
- → "One-stop-shop" for airborne equipment ... and airtime
  - General Aviation
  - Government Aviation
  - Airlines
- Heavily involved in various industry activities surrounding airborne connectivity – WAEA, RTCA, etc.



### About AirCell (continued)

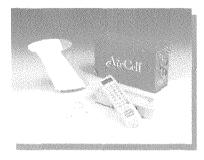
- Solutions leverage existing telecom infrastructure AirCell Cellular network and Iridium Satellites
- Primarily serving the General Aviation Jet market with voice and low speed data applications
- → Nearly 1,600 systems in service



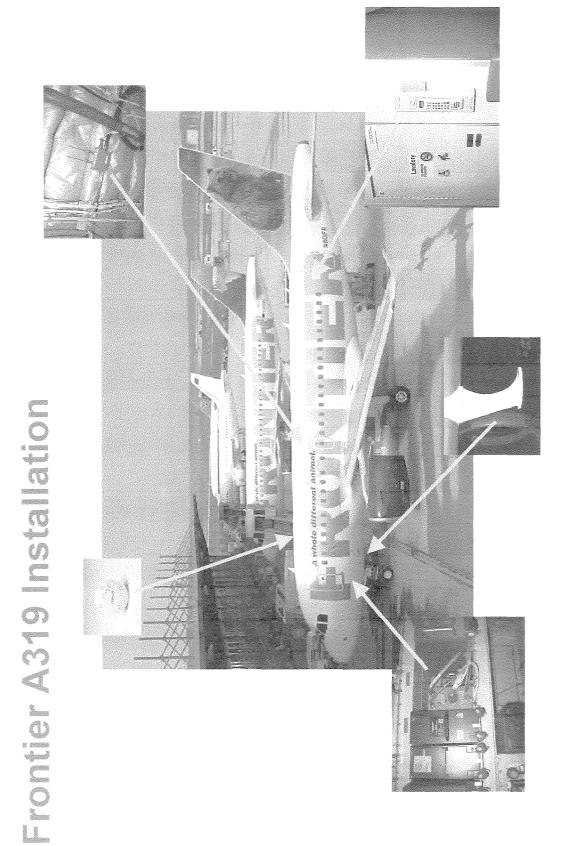


## About AirCell (continued)

- Standard option at Bombardier, Cessna, Dassault, Embraer, and Raytheon
- Major Government Customers
   DOD, Dept of Energy, FBI, US Customs, DOI
- → Market leader in systems sold and growth rate
- → Frontier trial in process (STC on A319)



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### **Communications Services**



### Today ...

- Passenger Voice Communications
- → Crew calling (medical emergency assistance, dispatch, etc.)
- > Refresh for server-based IFE information
- → Flight deck backup voice service
- → Delivery of weather maps to the flight deck

### Neartern

- → Capability to refresh Electronic Flight Bag information
- Passenger "hot spot" email service
- → Security potential for Air Marshal use
- Data refresh for server-based IFE information

## **Today's Communications Hardware**



Cellular & Satellite Telecom System AST 3500 Transceiver



Panel Mount Cellular Voice/Data for GA Aircraft



Satellite Telecom System ST 3100 Transceiver



Handsets



Remote Mount Cellular Data Transceiver



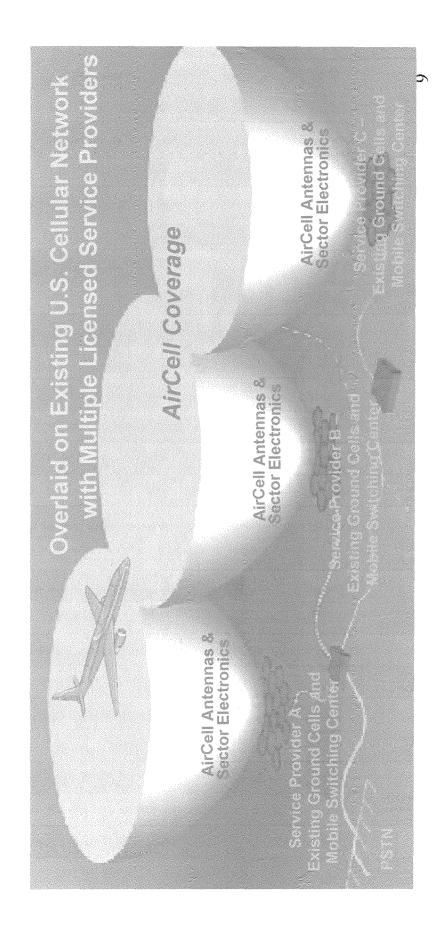
Cordless Bulkhead Phone with Credit Card Reader



Antennas

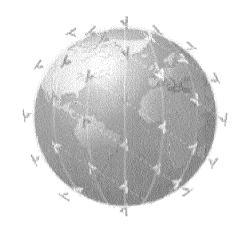
# → Today's AirCell Cellular Network

- The only FCC-Approved cellular network for aviation
- Voice, fax, and data up to 9,600 bps
- Covers the majority of continental U.S.



### One Company - Multiple Networks

- > The Iridium Satellite Network
  - 66 LEO satellites
  - Global coverage including polar regions
  - Voice and data up to 2,400 bps



Continuing the AirCell strategy of leveraging existing telecommunication infrastructures to offer the lowest airtime rates

### AirCell Near Term

- AirCell has petitioned the FCC for:
  - An extended waiver period
  - An increase in network capacity to 19 channels
  - An elimination of the digital exclusion

### Recent Filings by AirCell

Satisfies the Commission's waiver standards Serves the public interest by :

promoting aviation safety and security

providing competition in a monopolistic environment held by Verizon Airfone

Supports FCC Policy on efficient spectrum use

Provides sound technical analysis supporting non-harmful interference operations.

# Unique "Window of Opportunity" in aviation Communications

- On Threshold of Dramatic Change in Passenger Voice/Data
  - One Phone Goes Anywhere Personal cell phones and other wireless devices will be used in flight
  - WiFi now flying
- Airline Travelers want to stay connected
  - In addition to cell phones, more than 2/3 now carry WiFi device
  - Want VPN, internet, and other broadband services
- Pent up Need in Stranded Airlines
  - Over 70% of U.S. airliners have no air-to-ground connection outside the cockpit

### AirCell Long Term - Move to 800 MHz ATG Band

- AirCell wishes to relocate to the ATG band and evolve to digital cellular based service:
  - 16x Capacity
  - "Clean" spectrum
  - Feature rich offering possible
  - Feature transparency (same service ground and air)
  - Natural evolution to use of mobile phones in the air

### Four Companies can share the ATG Band

- Expert team has been working on this program for almost a year.
- Modeling demonstrates four companies can share the band and still offer greatly expanded, feature rich, services.
- Boeing acknowledges feasibility of AirCell proposal.
- Evolutionary steps to use of personal cell phones in flight (RTCA subcommittee, FAA, Airlines).

### Passenger Features

- AirCell will be available to passengers whenever FAA allows handsets to be operated
  - Expected to be above 10,000 feet initially, eventually from pushback to landing
- Passengers using the AirCell system will have access to the same features typically available when roaming:
  - Make and receive voice calls
  - Call waiting, 3-way calls
  - Send and receive SMS and data
  - Access to "home system" voicemail

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